

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 071332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. TROUBLE IN MAURITANIA

EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT REPORTS THAT MAURITANIANS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE STAYING POWER AND THE EXPANDING MILITARY MIGHT OF THE ALGERIAN-BACKED POLISARIO FRONT. RECENT GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SCANDALS AND REPORTS OF MILITARY DISCONTENT ADD TO MAURITANIA'S WOES, AND IT APPEARS THAT THE REGIME MAY BE HEADING FOR SERIOUS TROUBLE.

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AS AN INDICATION OF THIS, POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS MAURITANIANS FOR THE FIRST TIME ARE OPENLY CRITICIZING PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, SUGGESTING THAT HE IS BEYOND LEARNING HOW TO COPE WITH THE NATION'S ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PROBLEMS.
(SECRET) NOUAKCHOTT 642, 3/29.)

2. IZMIR: CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE FIRED UPON

UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS IN A MOVING CAR FIRED AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON AT THE US CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE IN IZMIR ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 29. THE SHOTS CAUSED NO PERSONAL INJURIES. AN UNEXPLODED PIPE BOMB WAS ALSO FOUND IN THE STREET OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE.

OUR CONSULATE GENERAL CONCURS WITH THE LOCAL POLICE THAT THE ASSAULT WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY ANTI-AMERICAN, BUT PART OF A LEFTIST CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE DESIGNED TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH OF TERRORIST MAHIR CAYAN (CAYAN WAS KILLED BY POLICE IN ISTANBUL EXACTLY SIX YEARS AGO). THE LOCAL POLICE, AWARE THAT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER WAS A GUEST THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, HAVE DISPLAYED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE ATTACK AND HAVE POSTED EXTRA GUARDS AT THE RESIDENCE.

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) IZMIR 88, 3/30.)

CHRISTOPHER

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